

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: PRESS AND PUBLIC

REF: (A) USNATO 4451; (B) USNATO 4406; (C) STATE 185002;

(D) STATE 184990; (E) STATE 184012

SUMMARY: AT ITS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 24 THE SPC DISCUSSED
THE US PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY PAPER (BASED EXTENSIVELY
ON TEXT OF REF C) WHICH HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED ON SEPTEMBER 18
(PARA 4, REF B) WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS:

A) OUR ALLIES AGREED US PAPER WAS WIDELY ACCEPTABLE AS A
GOOD START BUT IT STOPPED SHORT OF ADDRESSING THE VITAL ISSUE OF
WHAT CAN BE SAID PUBLICLY ON THE EVE OF NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC
COMPONENTS OF THE ALLIED NEGOTIATING APPROACH;

B) ALL PARTIES REGARD THE QUESTION OF AGREEMENT ON PRESS
POLICY AN URGENT ONE;

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(C) SOME ALLIES WILL CONTRIBUTE LISTS OF TOPICS OR QUESTIONS
UPON WHICH MBFR PRESS GUIDANCE MAY BE NEEDED. THE IS WILL PULL
TOGETHER THIS LIST AND, WITH THE US DRAFT AND COMMENTS THEREON AS
A BASIS, WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE

FOR SPC CONSIDERATION;

(D) ALL PARTIES AGREE TO REFRAIN FROM ANY COMMENT ON MBFR
NEGOTIATING POSITION UNTIL THERE IS COMMON AGREED PRESS GUIDANCE;

(E) THE COMMITTEE ASKS THE U.S. IF IT WOULD PROVIDE A
PERMANENT REGULAR PRESS SPOKESMAN FOR THE ALLIED MBFR EFFORT;

(F) THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO DISCUSS IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING
THE BASIC ALLIED PHILOSOPHY ON PUBLICIZING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS AS THEY EVOLVE. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY OPENING
OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 27 ON U.S. RESPONSE TO (E) AND U.S. VIEWS ON
(F). END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. MBFR PRESS POLICY PAPER (DRAWN FROM REF C) WAS DISCUSSED
AT SPC ON SEPTEMBER 24. CANADIAN, GERMAN AND NETHERLANDS REPS
AGREED THAT PROBLEM WAS URGENT AND THAT U.S. PAPER WAS FINE AS FAR
AS IT WENT BUT THAT IT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. THEY LISTED EXAMPLES
OF ISSUES OR QUESTIONS TO WHICH ALLIES WOULD PROBABLY NEED TO BE
IN A POSITION TO RESPOND.

2. NETHERLANDS REP STRESSED THAT DURING THE LAST DAYS PRIOR
TO THE OPENING OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ALLIES SHOULD KNOW SPECIFICALLY
WHAT ANSWERS TO GIVE TO LIKELY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ALLIED
NEGOTIATING APPROACH.

3. UK REP RE-EMPHASIZED THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM AND PROPOSED
THE PREPARATION OF A LIST OF TOPICS OR QUESTIONS THAT WOULD AID
THE ALLIANCE IN PREPARING PRESS GUIDANCE. UK REP WENT ON TO
SUPPORT THE GERMAN VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SINGLE SPOKESMAN
FOR THE ALLIANCE AND, NOTING THAT THE US PERFORMED ADMIRABLY IN THIS
ROLE IN THE EXPLORATORY TALKS, HE SPECIFICALLY INQUIRED WHETHER
THE U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO FURNISH A PERMANENT ALLIED MBFR
PRESS SPOKESMAN.

4. BELGIAN SAID INDIVIDUAL NATIONS AND NATIONAL PRESS SPOKESMEN
SHOULD HAVE FLEXIBILITY IN DESCRIBING THEIR GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF
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MBFR, BUT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE AGREED GUIDELINES ON SPECIFICS
OF THE ALLIED NEGOTIATING APPROACH ITSELF, AND EVERYONE SHOULD BE
REQUIRED TO STAY STRICTLY WITHIN THESE GUIDELINES.

5. THE US REP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE MANY POSITIVE COMMENTS
AND FOR AGREEMENT WITH OUR VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM.
HE DREW ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S NEWS INTERVIEW (REF E) AND
ON BASIC DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE (REF D) IN EMPHASIZING THAT COMMENTS
ON POSSIBLE ALLIED MBFR APPROACHES WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS
TIME. US REP RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHAT SHOULD BE THE ALLIANCE'S
BASIC APPROACH TOWARD SECRECY DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE
IT WAS ONE THING TO BRIEF THE PRESS ON BROAD OUTLINES OF THE
NEGOTIATING APPROACH, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER IF AND HOW

THE PRESS WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE DAY-TO-DAY PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT REGULAR MBFR SPOKESMAN FOR THE ALLIANCE DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE US REP STATED THAT HE WOULD REFER THE QUESTION TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

6. CANADIAN AND ITALIAN REPS AGREED THAT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE HAVE AGREEMENT, A POLICY OF "NO COMMENT" IS THE ONLY ONE TO PURSUE.

7. THE CHAIRMAN ABSTRACTED THE DISCUSSION ALONG LINES IN SUMMARY ABOVE.

8. CANADIAN REP INDICATED THAT IF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION APPROACH DURING NEGOTIATIONS IS TO BE HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE, HIS AUTHORTIES COULD GO ALONG AS LONG AS ALL DELEGATIONS BELIEVED IT WAS PRACTICAL AND DESIRABLE.

9. THE BELGIAN REP THEN MADE PITCH FOR SOME INTERIM GUIDANCE. ON QUESTION OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON EVE OF NEGOTIATIONS, HE FELT THAT ALTHOUGH THE ALLIED POSITION WAS NOT THOROUGHLY THRASHED OUT, THERE WERE MANY QUESTIONS THAT CAN BE ANSWERED NOW.

10. MEETING THEN TURNED TO A PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH REVIEW OF THE US PAPER RESULTING IN A FEW CHANGES THAT WILL BE REFLECTED IN AN IS DRAFT WHICH WILL BE PREPARED FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 27 SPC DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT.
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